

me," he said. "I'm no Lincoln, but even Lincoln got beat two or three times."

Longstanding alliances within the small Senate Republican caucus had largely kept Williams out of a leadership position there. But the number of Senate Republicans grew during the 1990s.

During the 1998 session, after the Republican minority had grown to 18 senators, Williams was part of (but he insists did not lead) an attempt to oust Sen. Dan Kelly's Republican leadership team—a coup that failed when Republican senators voted 9-9.

After the 1998 elections changed the makeup of the caucus, Williams finally had the votes he needed to win election as Senate Republican leader.

And defections of two Democratic senators to the GOP mean he's likely to become Senate president.

A MIX OF ATTORNEY AND PREACHER

Williams said Kentuckians can expect him to take generally conservative stands on most issues.

"But I don't hate government," he said. "I'm not a person who is afraid to use government to effect change. . . . I come from an area of the state that has needs. I've grown up and lived with people who have needs. I've grown up in areas that needed roads, that needed schools."

In fact, in 1990 Williams was one of only three Senate Republicans who voted for the Kentucky Education Reform Act, which included a massive tax increase.

"I voted for it because the school districts in rural Kentucky did not have adequate resources, the students there did not have adequate opportunity," Williams said. "I'm not unalterably wed to every aspect of the Kentucky Education Reform Act. . . . But I still feel like I cast the right vote."

Besides his support of KERA, Williams is known in the legislature for his long fight to win funding for a resort lodge at Dale Hollow, his advocacy of workers' compensation law reform (which Gov. Paul Patton pushed through in 1996), and helping to increase state spending on adult education.

Williams is better-known, though, for his skill as a debater. "David Williams is and has always been one of the most articulate members of the Senate," said Senate Democratic Leader David Karem of Louisville. "There's a wonderful mix of the courtroom attorney and the traditional Kentucky preacher in the way he delivers his speeches from the floor."

Williams said Republicans are inclined to oppose two ideas Patton has floated this year as ways of raising state revenue—raising the gas tax and expanding legal gambling.

But he said he's not prepared yet to slam the door on either idea. "We haven't seen a bill yet," he said.

And if Williams succeeds in leading the Senate, might he make another race for statewide office?

Williams said he has no plans to seek higher office, though he's not ruling out the possibility.

Sen. Tom Buford, R-Nicholasville, said Williams could be a strong candidate for governor in 2003. "He hasn't said anything," Buford said. "But I would watch that."●

IN RECOGNITION OF THE BETHESDA FALCONS

● Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the Bethesda Soccer Club Falcons for winning the Under-16 girls Maryland State Cup Championship.

The Falcons defeated their opponent, the Soccer Club of Baltimore Force, 11-

0. This victory marked the team's seventh consecutive state title—one for every year that they have been eligible to win—which also happens to be a Maryland record.

Every Falcons team member was a contributor to this important victory. On the offensive, the game's leading strikers were Audra Poulin and Jenny Potter, who had three goals apiece. Jenna Linden added two goals to the team's fight, while Christi Bird, Stephanie Sybert, and Allison Dooley chipped in the remaining scores for the Falcons. This overpowering offense was aided by the passing and play-making abilities of the Falcons' talented midfielders: Beth Hendricks, Tara Quinn, Jennifer Fields, Susannah Empson, and Tanya Hahnel.

One of the keys to the Falcons' victory was their unwavering and steadfast defense which allowed no goals and only a few shots by the unrelenting Baltimore Force. This defense was anchored around defenders Caitlin Curtis, Amy Salomon and Alison West, while the goal posts were kept clear by goalies Anna Halse-Strumberg and Kerry York.

It was a fitting ending to the tournament in which the Falcons, through five games, outscored their hard-working opponents 29-0. The following day, the Falcons continued their winning efforts by defeating the Baltimore Soccer Club Pride—another great Maryland team. The Falcons finished in first place in the Washington Area Girls' Soccer Association Under-17 Premier Division.

Mr. President, as many of my colleagues know, I believe we must get behind our kids and support them in their hard work. The importance of this principle was demonstrated by Falcons coach, Richie Burke, who did just that. As a result, the team fought hard and produced a definitive victory. I'm proud to have such a great team and a fantastic coach in Maryland, and I'm proud of all the participants in the Maryland State Cup Championship for their hard work and dedication.●

TRIBUTE TO MR. FRANCIS WILSON

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Francis M. Wilson and his wonderful and admirable life.

Mr. Wilson served as a tech-sergeant during World War II in Germany when he was only 18 years old. He was an engineer in the Detroit Public School District, a devoted family man, and an active citizen. The challenges he successfully faced in these capacities have distinguished him within his family, his town, his state, and his country.

As a very young boy, he sold "Liberty" magazines to supplement his family's income during the Great Depression. Growing up during a time of financial strife led him to find solace in nature. Mr. Wilson was exposed to nature during his experience in the military and developed a love and

knowledge of it. As a young adult he was able to identify a variety of birds, insects, trees, and flowers. He then went on to form and preside over a group of citizens that forced new construction to adhere to guidelines designed to protect nearby lakes.

Once he reached adulthood, Mr. Wilson found his real love, Dolores. Together they found great joy in their children and grandchildren. Mr. Wilson wanted to ensure that they received all the advantages that he did not have. He inspired his children to put themselves through college. He provided them with the opportunity to grow up in a safe environment, allowing them to mature at a more deliberate pace than the one that was forced upon him. His wife, Dolores, expresses the best tribute to Mr. Wilson when she writes "this brave, honest, dedicated, ordinary man was to his family and America 'the staff of life' that fuels generations to come."

Mr. Wilson expressed his passion for education through his involvement with children as an engineer of thirty years in the Detroit Public Schools. He gave and received respect from all he knew. He not only led by lecture but, more importantly and effectively, by example. He never left any doubt as to where he stood in a debate and firmly believed in right and wrong. Mr. Wilson offered little patience for individuals passing on responsibility as an excuse for negligent or bad behavior. Personifying Winston Churchill's statement, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give," Mr. Francis M. Wilson left this world an honorable, loyal, selfless servant to his country and a loved and missed father, grandfather and husband.●

THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF OAKLAND, MARYLAND

● Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Town of Oakland, Maryland. The Mayor of Oakland, Asa McCain, Jr., and the entire community are planning numerous events to commemorate this milestone.

Like so many of Maryland's historic cities and towns, Oakland, which was founded in 1849, has carved its own unique place in American history. At Oakland's center is one of the oldest railroad stations in the country. The Queen Anne style railroad station designed by E.F. Baldwin and built in 1885 by the B & O Railroad is now in the National Registry.

The railroad was responsible for popularization of the Oakland area as a resort in the late 1800's and resulted in Garrett County's flourishing export of timber and coal. Recently purchased by the "Save the Oakland Station Committee," the station will be restored to its original splendor in an effort to provide a cornerstone for continued growth in the County. In recognition of